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CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER

24-HOUR REPORT**28 JUNE 2018**

(U) CALIFORNIA**(U) Del Paso Heights – Couple Arrested in Dark Web Sting**

(U) In a first-of-its-kind sting, federal law enforcement targeted the dark web and nabbed 35 people accused of selling illegal items, including a couple from Sacramento. Federal court documents say a Del Paso Heights couple offered marijuana, crystal meth, Xanax, and codeine on the dark web in exchange for cryptocurrency. As of 13 May, the couple earned \$69,000 in drug sales on one dark web marketplace, according to investigators.

SOURCE: 26 June 2018, [Fox 40 News](#)

(U) San Leandro – More than a Ton of Illegal Fireworks Seized, Man Arrested

(U) More than 3,000 pounds of illegal fireworks were seized, and their suspected owner arrested by Oakland police on 26 June, according to authorities. The illegal fireworks—which were primarily commercial grade aerial pyrotechnics and their launchers—were seized at a storage facility in San Leandro and turned over to the Alameda County sheriff's bomb squad. Police estimated the street value of the fireworks to be more than \$50,000.

SOURCE: 27 June 2018, [East Bay Times](#)

(U) NATIONAL**(U) District of Columbia – Benghazi Mastermind Sentenced to Prison on Terrorism Charges**

(U) Washington DC – Ahmed Abu Khattala, 47, a Libyan national, was sentenced yesterday to 22 years in prison on federal terrorism charges for the deadly 2012 attack on the US Consulate in Benghazi, Libya resulting in the deaths of US Ambassador to Libya Christopher Stevens, Sean Smith, Tyrone Woods, and Glen Doherty. Prosecutors acknowledged they lacked evidence of Khattala having fired any weapons, and their case against him relied heavily on the testimony of informants.

SOURCE: 27 June 2018, [Fox News](#)

(U) District of Columbia – FBI Has 130 Cryptocurrency-Related Investigations

(U) Washington DC – The FBI has 130 cases tied to cryptocurrencies, according to an agent speaking at a digital-asset industry conference in New York. The cases “threat tagged” to virtual currencies encompass crimes such as human trafficking, illicit drug sales, kidnapping, and ransomware attacks. The opioid epidemic has come into focus at the FBI as the dark web enables a surge in drug abuse. Illegal online marketplaces are where 10 percent of global drug users make their purchases.

SOURCE: 27 June 2018, [Bloomberg News](#)

(U) North Carolina – Man Who Drove into Crowd at Rally Facing Federal Charges, Death Penalty

(U) Charlottesville – James Alex Fields Jr., 21, has been charged with one count of a hate crime resulting in the death of 32-year-old Heather Heyer. He also faces 28 other hate crime charges involving an attempt to kill dozens of other people who were injured at a rally held last year, according to an indictment released yesterday. Authorities will be recommending the death penalty to the US Attorney General, who will decide whether to pursue that penalty.

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SOURCE: 27 June 2018, [Fox News](#)

(U) Ohio – Fentanyl Seized Enough to Kill Five Million People

(U) Columbus – Ten kilograms of fentanyl—enough fatal individual doses to kill half the population of Ohio, according to authorities—along with one kilogram of methamphetamine and 10 ounces of heroin was seized this week following the serving of a search warrant at a private residence. Tomas Sandoval, Alvaro Gasca-Cardoso, Salatiel Ramos-Rajos and Alexis Zazueta-Soto are charged with conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute fentanyl, methamphetamine, and heroin.

SOURCE: 26 June 2018, [WLWT News](#)

(U) INTERNATIONAL**(U) Afghanistan – 16 Policemen Killed in Taliban Raid**

(U) Takhar – At least 16 border policemen have been killed in a Taliban attack over security checkpoints in northern Takhar province of Afghanistan, an official said today. The incident took place last night in Yatim Tapa area of Nawa Abad village in Chahab District of Takhar Province. The spokesman for the provincial governor stated that in addition to the 16 soldiers killed, six others are missing—the spokesman suggested the missing soldiers were taken captive by the Taliban. The spokesman also claimed that security officials had previous intelligence information about the attack but did nothing to prevent it.

SOURCE: 28 June 2018, [Ariana News](#)

(U) Israel – Hacker Who Threatened US Jewish Centers Convicted

(U) Tel Aviv – A district court convicted an Israeli Jewish man today for making a string of bomb threats targeting Jewish community centers in the United States. The court did not name the man since he was a teenager when he committed the crimes, but he has been identified as a hacker who holds dual Israeli and American citizenship. Police said the man, from southern Israel, used advanced technologies to mask the origin of his calls and communications to synagogues, community buildings, and public venues. His defense attorneys said he was mentally ill and unfit to stand trial.

SOURCE: 28 June 2018, [CBS News](#)

(U) Mexico – FBI Fugitive and Gang Leader Arrested in Mexico

(U) Uruapan – A reputed Barrio Azteca gang leader on the FBI's Ten Most Wanted Fugitives list has been arrested in Mexico, according to authorities. Eduardo "Tablas" Ravelo was among alleged gang leaders indicted in El Paso in a federal racketeering case connected to the killings of three people linked to the US Consulate in Juárez in 2010 during the height of drug cartel violence. He was believed to have overseen the gang's operations in Juárez—across the US-Mexico border from El Paso, Texas—according to law enforcement.

SOURCE: 27 June 2018, [El Paso Times](#)

(U) PREPARED BY THE CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER.

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